

## **LACDMH TEAMS RECEIVE TRAINING FOR SURVIVING EXTREME VIOLENCE**

**By Karen Zarsadiaz-Ige, Public Information Officer**



On Friday, September 20, 2013, a few dozen employees at the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health participated in an intense training by the Center for Personal Protection and Safety (CPPS) on how to survive extreme violence in the work environment.

CPPS' Roger Aldrich (Executive Vice President, Training and Educational Development Center for Personal Protection and Safety) and Dave Benson (Executive Vice President, Global Security Operations Center for Personal Protection and Safety) mixed in live demonstrations, videos, instruction and discussion to show staff how to handle and deal with all types of scenarios that could happen at work and out in the field, including situations that involve an active shooter.

For the past three years, CPPS has trained dozens of LACDMH clinical staff and field teams. Besides LACDMH, CPPS has trained clients all over the country, including Fortune 100 companies, colleges and universities, federal agencies, churches and nonprofits.

"It's all about situational awareness and knowing what to do," said Tony Beliz, Ph.D., Deputy Director, Emergency Outreach Bureau (EOB). Dr. Beliz arranged for CPPS to train LACDMH staff and team on survival skills when caught in a crisis. He mentioned how timely the training is considering all the stories in the news about shooters on college campuses, offices, movie theaters, etc. The training is not only useful at work but also in your personal life.

"This was just the beginning. We hope to have them come back," added Dr. Beliz. "We're going to try and have it for everyone."